

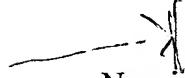
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to this amendment, 22 claims were pending in the above-identified application. As noted by the Examiner, the application as previously examined contained two claims having claim number 11. This error has been explicitly corrected by this amendment (as indicated by the change of the second claim 11 to claim number 12 and renumbered claims 13 through 22). Claims originally numbered as claims 4, 5, 12, 13, 15, and 19-21 have been canceled. New claims 23-26 have been added. No new matter has been introduced by the claim amendments or by the new claims. The claim cancellations and renumbering are believed to overcome the Examiner's objection to the claim numbering. In view of the remarks set forth herein, reconsideration of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to better clarify the nature and operation of the invention. Specifically, claim one in amended form now reads:

A method for operating a data input device, comprising

- receiving first data input by a user, the first data representing alphanumeric information;
- predicting at least one additional item of alphanumeric information based at least in part on the first data;
- presenting the at least one additional item of alphanumeric information to the user;
- determining if the user has provided an additional input during a predetermined time period; and;
- if said determining determines that the user has not provided the additional input during the predetermined time period, then characterizing the at least one additional item of alphanumeric information as unacceptable to the user. (emphasis added)**


New independent claim 23 substantially recites a data input device configured to implement the method of operation recited in claim 1. No new matter is added by this amendment. Support for this amendment is found in the application at page 11, paragraphs 33

and 34. Amendments to the remaining dependent claims are for purposes of clarity and/or making the language of those claims more compatible with claim 1 as amended. As with claim 1, no new matter has been added by the amendments to the remaining claims or by the newly added claims.

As indicated by the emphasized portions of amended claim 1, the claimed invention is directed to a method for operating a data input device that is designed to assist a user by predicting additional elements of alphanumeric content in response to a user inputting data representing an element of such content. An issue that arises in such predictive data entry methods and devices is how to optimize the process of presenting and determining the user's acceptance or rejection of additional elements without confusing the user or adding undesirable delays to the data entry process.

Whereas the prior art cited by the Examiner describes a method wherein an active response is required by a user to accept a proposed additional element, in contrast, the claimed invention solves the problem by introducing the concept of a passive indicator of the non-acceptance of a proposed additional element. That is, the claimed invention operates by introducing a time period, the expiration of which is interpreted as meaning that the proposed additional element has been rejected by the user. This is fundamentally different than a situation wherein a user action (such as a data input) is interpreted as meaning that the proposed additional element has been accepted.

The following discusses the Examiner's rejections in greater detail.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that "The language of the claims raises as to whether the claims are directed merely to an abstract idea that is not tied to a technological art, environment or machine, which would result in a practical application

producing a concrete, useful, and tangible result to form the basis of statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. § 101."

Attorney for applicant respectfully submits that the claims, as amended, satisfy 35 U.S.C. 101 and that the Examiner's rejection should be withdrawn. The amended claims recite a method for operating a device and not an abstract idea. That is, the claims recite a series of steps by which a device would operate and not a process that is implemented independently of a machine. In addition, the claimed method produces a concrete, useful, and tangible result in the form of an improved method of implementing a predictive text entry process. The claimed process results in the selection and display of text or other alphanumeric content on a display of a device, based on a predictive model of what a user is attempting to enter, and does so in a manner of operation that improves the user experience.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Robinson *et al.* (US 6,801,190 B1, herein Robinson). Attorney for applicant respectfully submits that the claims, as amended, are not anticipated by Robinson and that as a result, it is requested that the Examiner's rejection of the claims be withdrawn.

Robinson describes a keyboard system that includes an automatic correction feature. While much of the description is concerned with methods of determining how the predictive aspect is implemented to provide the correction feature, it is clear that Robinson is describing a device or method in which a user must provide an active input to select a desired additional alphanumeric element (see, for example, the sections of Robinson cited by the Examiner at columns 9 and 10). That is, the user must, for example, enter a keystroke or otherwise select from one of a set of possible additional elements to indicate that a proposed element is accepted. Robinson is not concerned with the operation of a predictive text entry method or device in the situation where a user does not provide an active input within a predetermined time period, where such an inaction is interpreted by the device or method to represent that the proposed alphanumeric element is unacceptable to the user.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 206-467-9600.

Respectfully submitted,



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